

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please revise the claims, as follows:

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1. (Previously presented) A computer method comprising:
 - i) providing a department store space-requirements database comprising a compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;
 - ii) providing a department store space-availability database comprising a compendium of at least one of department store space management solutions, department store space information, and department store space diagnostics;and
 - iii) employing a data mining technique for interrogating said department store space-requirements and department store space-availability databases for generating an output data stream, said output data stream correlating a department store space-requirements problem with a department store space-availability solution.
 2. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
updating the department store space-requirements database.
 3. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein said updating the department store space-requirements database comprises including the results of employing a data mining technique.
 4. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

updating the department store space-availability database.

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5. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein said updating the department store space-availability database comprises including the effects of employing a data mining technique on the department store space-requirements database.

6. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 2, further comprising:

refining an employed data mining technique in cognizance of pattern changes embedded in each database as a consequence of updating the department store space-requirements database.

7. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 4, further comprising:

refining an employed data mining technique in cognizance of pattern changes embedded in each database as a consequence of updating the department store space-availability database.

8. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

employing neural networks as the data mining technique.

9. (Currently amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for providing an interactive department store space management database, the method comprising:

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i) providing a department store space-requirements database comprising a compendium of individual department store ~~space-requirements~~ space-requirements history;

ii) providing a department store space-availability database comprising a compendium of at least one of department store space management solutions, department store space information, and department store space diagnostics;

and

iii) employing a data mining ~~technique~~ technique for interrogating said department store space-requirements and department store space-availability databases for generating an output data stream, said output data stream correlating a department store space-requirements problem with a department store space-availability solution.

10. (Previously presented) A computer comprising:

i) means for inputting a department store space-requirements database comprising a compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;

ii) means for inputting a department store space-availability database comprising a compendium of at least one of department store space management solutions, department store space information, and department store space diagnostics;

iii) means for employing a data mining technique for interrogating said department store space-requirements and department store space-availability databases;

and

iv) means for generating an output data stream, said output data stream correlating a department store space-requirements problem with a department store space-availability solution.

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11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said neural networks classify features of said department store space-requirements and features of said department store space-availability.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said correlating a department store space-requirements problem with a department store space-availability solution comprises determining whether a match exists between a classification of features of said department store space-requirement determined to be a problem and a classification of features of said department store space-availability.

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13. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said data mining technique comprises at least one of:

classification-neural;
classification-tree;
clustering-geographic;
clustering-neural;
factor analysis;
principal component analysis; and
expert systems.

14. (New) The program storage device of claim 9, wherein said data mining technique comprises at least one of:

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classification-neural;

classification-tree;

clustering-geographic;

clustering-neural;

factor analysis;

principal component analysis; and

expert systems.

15. (New) The computer of claim 10, wherein said data mining technique comprises at least one of:

classification-neural;

classification-tree;

clustering-geographic;

clustering-neural;

factor analysis;

principal component analysis; and

expert systems.
